

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01307 220621Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02
IGA-02 AGRE-00 /132 W
-----113108 220627Z/17

R 220446Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2479
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1307

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, EFIN, ETRD, ELAB, AS
SUBJ: ECONOMIC INDICATORS - AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 1051 (B) CANBERRA 1102
(C) 76 STATE 270634

1. THIS IS MONTHLY TRANSMITTAL OF CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS REQUESTED IN REF (C). REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO REF (B) FOR DEFINITIONS, SOURCES, BASE PERIOD ETC. NO NEW FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDICATORS B, C, E(I), E(II), F, G, Q, R, AND Y. THESE INDICATORS HAVE THEREFORE BEEN OMITTED FROM THIS REPORT.

A. SEP - 165; OCT - 147
D. DEC - DOLS 2668
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E(III) DEC - 6688
E(IV) DEC - 28.8
H. NOV - 208
I. NOV - DOLS 10,871
J. NOV - DOLS 21,077
K. NOV - DOLS 38,175
L. NOV - 3.75

M. NOV - 8.25
N. JAN - DOLS 2125
O. JAN - DOLS 1685
P. JAN - MINUS DOLS 440
S. JAN - 7.2
T. NOV - 519.6
U. JAN - DOLS 1005
V. JAN - DOLS 983
W. JAN - MINUS DOLS 113
X. DEC - DOLS 1603
Z. JAN - DOLS 10.8

COMMENT: UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES ROSE TO A NEW HIGH IN JANUARY, AT 7.2 PERCENT OF WORKFORCE OF 6.2 MILLION (CANBERRA 01051). DURING MONTH OF JANUARY IMPORTS ROSE BY 29.5 PERCENT WHILE EXPORTS ROSE ONLY 1.6 PERCENT. THE TRADE BALANCE WAS REDUCED TO A DOLS 22 MILLION IN JNUARY FROM A DOLS 280 MILLION IN DECEMBER. NEGATIVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AS MEASURED BY NET MONETARY MOVEMENTS, CONTINUED FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE MONTH AND INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY TO MINUS DOLS 113 MILLION IN JANUARY. INDEX OF VALUE OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR AGAINST "BASKET OF CURRENCIES" HAS BEEN STEADILY LOWERED AND ON FEBRUARY 18 STOOD AT 88.7 (MAY 1970 EQUALS 100 AND NOVEMBER 28, 1976 EQUALS 105.3). AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR NOW DEVALUED AGAINST BASKET BY APPROXIMATELY 15.8 PERCENT AS AGAINST PRE-NOVEMBER 28, 1976 VALUE. VALUE OF US DOL HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUED TO WEAKEN AGAINST A DOL AND ON FEBRUARY 18 STOOD AT 1.1364, ALTHOUGH IT HAD REACHED 1.1414 ON DECEMBER 30. A DOLS THUS NOW DEVALUED 7.8 PERCENT AGAINST U.S. DOL IN COMPARISON TO PRE-NOVEMBER 28, 1976 VALUE OF 1.2329. ALTHOUGH THERE AGAIN HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE NEW SIGNIFICANT SINGLE STAGE DEVALUATION, GOVERNMENT STILL APPEARS DETERMINED TAKE NO SUCH ACTION.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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